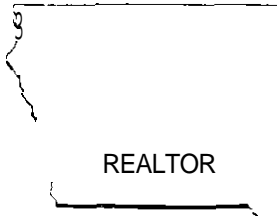


IOWA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



JUN 17 2002

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June 13, 2002

Mr. Michael Powell, Chairman
 Federal Communications Commission
 445 12th Street, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like to express my support for the merger proposal between Hughes and EchoStar. **As** a REALTOR® from a rural state, I view this merger as a great opportunity to bring a much needed, innovative service to Iowa homeowners.

These two satellite providers have worked together to form a partnership that would bring high-speed Internet access and a wide menu of pay-TV offerings to the often forgotten rural population in America. Many Iowa homeowners are frustrated because they do not have access to these new technology options. This merger would provide them with the services they want, as well as give them additional tools to create new opportunities for their communities.

It is important to ensure that rural areas have equal access to the types of technology that benefit our larger metropolitan areas. I believe this innovative idea will benefit the people of Iowa, and would ask for your support in approving this merger. I appreciate your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Joan Ballantyne

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